

From: Chris Calvert
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a long time observer of the computer industry here are my thoughts. Microsoft is a monopoly. They got this way by buying or intimidating their competition. Apparently they have contributed enough money to politicians to get themselves out of their current problem with the DOJ. They have lied to the courts about not being able to remove Internet Explorer from Windows and dragged their feet and hired enough lawyers that they will prevail, but justice will not have been done, just perverted.

Meanwhile it is business as usual with Microsoft, taking away the open music standard of MP3 and substituting their proprietary Window Media Player format is a perfect example of their predatory practices. Yes, a person can add the MP3 player to Windows, but in my considerable experience, less than 10% will and just like Netscape, MP3 will disappear much like Netscape and one more "standard" will be owned by Microsoft. For that matter, why is Microsoft bundling this software in Windows in the first place? It is a separate application, or will we later learn that Windows Media Player cannot be removed from Windows because it is now necessary to the operating system? Deja vu all over again.

And who at DOJ allowed Microsoft to recommend their own punishment?!!!!!!
Wow, I want that judge if I ever get in trouble. The punishment would be for them to give away their product for free, with government sanction to a market niche currently dominated by their competition. This is absolutely insane. The companies most hurt by their monopolistic practices get slammed with the judges blessing, and then do not get compensated for it. What would I do? Make Microsoft pay all the other computer vendors compensation for loss of sales. Yep, it would be billions, but we might see Unix and Linux and Apple have a small chance to create something innovative, more secure and better for our computers than Microsofts current offerings.

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They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

--Benjamin Franklin